Life rarely remains static for any length of time. In fact, sometimes it seems as though change is the order of the day. As poignantly described by this issue’s poets, each patient/family dynamic becomes the stuff of the chaplain’s “ordinary” day.

Surrounded by this sacred ordinariness, we journey with those whom we meet, sometimes for little more than minutes, sometimes for days or months or even years. We come in the hope that our shared faith will indeed move the mountains of despair, of doubt, of loneliness. This issue tells stories of those encounters: with those who suffer from personality disorders, with residents in a state school for mental retardation, with individuals undergoing rehab, with the dying, with staff members in crisis.

Even as we are invited to share others’ most intimate moments, within these pages we share who we are—the ordinariness of our daily lives. As I completed the final editing of this issue, I was reminded anew of the tradition of caring that is represented here.

This is our twentieth year of publication, first as The Caregiver Journal and, since 1998, as Chaplaincy Today. The autumn/winter issue will include a focus on this history, and I invite you to share your reflections on how this journal has influenced your service as a professional chaplain. Please e-mail me (rozallyn@earthlink.net) by August 15.

As mentioned above, change is ongoing. Vic Trogdon, who has shared the duties of book review editor, has assumed new duties at St. Mary’s which preclude his continuing in this capacity. I am grateful for his service to CT as well as that of Paul Buche, who has accepted an expansion of his book review responsibilities.

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